THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI SATYABRATA MOOKHERJEE): (a) India and Singapore are negotiating mutual recognition agreements in various areas as a part of the Comprehensive Economic Cooperation Agreement (CECA) negotiations. However, their conclusion by the end of the year has not been specified.

(b) Electronics and electrical equipment, telecommunication equipment, food, drugs & pharmaceuticals, gas appliances are some of the areas of cooperation. In the area of services, the possibility of negotiating MRAs in various professional services sectors, such as accountancy, architecture and health is being discussed with the concerned professional bodies and institutions.

(c) and (d) The negotiations on a Comprehensive Economic Cooperation Agreement between India and Singapore would cover trade in goods, services, investment and economic cooperation.

Trade between China and India

19. SHRI CHO S. RAMASWAMY: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) the turnover of the trade between China and India both in terms of imports and exports;

(b) the steps being taken to improve the export performance with China;

(c) whether the country is going for cheap imports resulting in dumping activity;

(d) if so, what steps are being taken to correct this situation;

(e) whether any new agreements have been signed during the PM's visit to China; and

(f) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI SATYABRATA MOOKHERJEE): (a) the level of trade between the two countries during the last two years is given below.

(US $ Million)

	2001-02	2002-03 (P)
Export	951.95	1961.11
% age growth	+14.87	+106.01
Import	2036.39	2782.50
%age growth	+36.44	+36.64
Trade Volume	2988.34	4743.61
% age growth	+28.74	+58.73
Trade balance	-1084.44	-821.39

(Source DGCI&S)

(P) -Provisional

(b) Steps being taken, on an ongoing basis, for increasing India China trade include participation in trade fares/exhibitions, exchange of delegations at both government and business levels etc.

(c) and (d) Under the Anti-dumping Rules, a product is considered to be dumped if it's export price is lower than it's normal value (i.e. the price of the product in the domestic market of the country concerned). The imposition of Anit-Dumping duty provides relief to the domestic industry by counteracting trade distortion caused by dumping and the consequential injury to the domestic industry. However, the imposition of Anti-dumping measure does not restrict import from the subject countries. Anti dumping cases are normally initiated on the basis of fully documented petition filed by the domestic industry containing sufficient evidence in respect of alleged dumping; injury and causal link between the two. Designated Authority may also initiate suo-moto investigations if it is so satisfied from the information, received from the Collector of Customs appointed under the Customs Act, 1962, or from any other source that sufficient evidence exist as to the existence of dumping, material injury to the domestic industry and causal link between the two.

(e) and (f) During Prime Minister's visit to China during June 22-27, 2003, the following Agreements relating to Trade were signed:

(i) A Memorandum on Expanding Border Trade

(ii) A Protocol of Phytosanitary Requirements for Exporting Mangoes from India to China.

(iii) A Declaration on Principles for Relations and Comprehensive Cooperation including *inter-alia* the following elements pertaining to trade:

The importance of the Ministerial meeting of the Joint Economic Group (JEG)

Setting up of a compact Joint Study Group (JSG) composed of officials and economists to examine the potential of complementarities between the two countries in expanding trade and economic cooperation.

Purchase of Tobacco

20. SHRI K.KALAVENKATA RAO: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether traders of Andhra Pradesh have been accused of adopting double standards in purchasing tobacco from the farmers;

(b) whether it is a fact that purchase from Karnataka was favoured at the auction centres; and

(c) the action proposed to ensure that tobacco is purchased at various auction centers?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI SATYABRATA MOOKHERJEE): (a) and (b) No, Sir.

(c) No action is called for as flue cured Virginia tobacco is being purchased at auction centers.

Status of diamond processing sector

21. SHRI SURESH PACHOURI: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) the present status of the country's diamond processing sector;

(b) whether USA has proposed this sector as a potential sector for outsourcing their production of diamond studded jewellery;